

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement

Details of district-wise Human Loss

S. No.	Name of District	Human Deaths
1.	Ahmedabad	751
2.	Anand	1
3.	Banaskantha	32
4.	Bharuch	9
5.	Bhavnagar	4
6.	Gandhinagar	8
7.	Jamnagar	119
8.	Junagadh	8
9.	Kachchh	18416
10.	Navsari	17
11.	Patan	38
12.	Porbandar	9
13.	Rajkot	433
14.	Surat	46
15.	Surendranagar	113
16.	Vadodara	1
TOTAL:		20005

Fall in prices of coconut and its products

2892. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether Government have taken any measures to arrest decline in prices of coconut and its products;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the details of copra prices from 1995-96 to 2000-2001;

(d) what are the steps being taken by Government to assist the coconut farmers to come out of economic losses arising from the fall in prices;

(e) whether Government have imported coconuts from Colombo and Philippines; and

(f) if so, whether Government would reconsider the policy of importing edible oils so as to protect the interest of coconut farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) To arrest the decline in prices of coconut and its products, the Government is undertaking Price Support Operations through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). Besides instruments of trade are also being used towards this end.

(c) The prices of milling and ball copra for the relevant period is at Statement (*See* below).

(d) As per the directions of the Government, NAFED commenced price support operations of milling copra at MSP rate of Rs. 3250 per quintal and ball copra of Rs. 3500 per quintal during 2000 season. Till mid March, 2001 NAFED had procured a total quantity of 219938 tonnes of milling copra and 4063 tonnes of ball copra respectively.

(e) As per the information compiled by the Office of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, there have been no imports of coconut (fresh/dried) either from Colombo or from Philippines during the past three years. However, a negligible quantity of dessicated coconut of 25 tonnes in 1997-98, 0.7 tonnes in 1999-2000 and 19.10 tonnes in April-October, 2000 have been imported from Colombo.

(f) To protect the interest of the coconut fanners, the Government

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has decided to increase the import duty on crude edible oils, ranging from 35% to 55% at present, to a uniform rate of 75% and on refined oils from 45%—65% to 85% respectively.

Statement

Prices of Milling and Ball Copra

(Price Rs. per quintal)

Year	M.S.P. of Copra		Wholesale Prices (Annual Average)		
	Milling	Ball	Cochin	Kozhikode	Arsikere
			(Milling)	(Milling)	(Ball)
1995	2500	2725	2275	2385	—
1996	2500	2725	2856	3104	3405
1997	2700	2925	3424	3675	5026
1998	2900	3125	2864	3146	4453
1999	3100	3325	3645	3833	3973
2000	3250	3500	2316	2525	3718

Import of Milk Powder

2893. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether despite beint, the largest milk producing country in the world, the country is importing milk powder;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- what measures Government propose to take for production of milk in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Under the liberalised Exim Policy, skimmed milk powder is freely importable. Hence some imports of this item take place through private traders.